

Refugee Advisory Board Meeting

May 26, 2016

RETC Rm 133

3:00 - 4:30 pm

Attendees: Mollie Murphy Dale, Lina Smith, Fatima Dirie, Lam Nguyen, Raymon Burton, Steve Pluim, Bethany Hyatt, Rick Bouillon, Aden Batar, Patrick Poulin, Liz Bioteau, Nicholas Street, Tyler Kotter, Gerald Brown, Tino Nyawelo, Sahil Oberoi, Ze Min Xiao, Amelia Self, Brian Redd, Shu Cheng, Jon Pierpont, Jackie Rader

ACTION ITEMS

- **Flush out the role of the Advisory Board**
- **Finish compiling board through Governor's office**

Welcome – Jon Pierpont

- Lots of information in the packet, will go through briefly
- Introductions
 - o Asha Parekh, RSO Director
 - o Rick Bouillon, SLCC Assoc. Provost
 - o Patrick Poulin, IRC Director
 - o Nick Street, Dept. Public Safety
 - o Tyler Kotter, Dept. Public Safety
 - o Gerald Brown, RSO
 - o Tino Nyawelo, USU
 - o Sahil Oberoi, RSO
 - o Jackie Rader, RSO
 - o Mollie Murphy Dale, RSO
 - o Lina Smith, AAU
 - o Fatima Dirie, Salt Lake City
 - o Lam Nguyen, RSO
 - o Raymon Burton, LDS Church
 - o Steve Pluim, Talent Team
 - o Aden Batar, CCS Director
 - o Liz Bioteau, Salt Lake County Housing Authority

Minutes

- Lina Smith moved to approve
- Seconded by Steve Pluim
- Minutes approved

Refugee Services Fund

- Handout

- Beginning balance – \$23,312.53
- Ending balance – \$17,848.25
- Expenses listed on the sheet
- Use of the fund:
 - o Women's or youth services → money donated specifically for activities with women and youth for snacks & drinks at gatherings
 - o Spent money on a refugee mother who was on the verge of being homeless
- Lina: What do we do to help refugees who die after resettlement if under 2 years?
 - o RSO offered support for a specific case from the fund but were unable to route money through DWS in time needed
 - o Have used the fund several times to offset the cost of funerals in the past
- Anything over \$1,000 requires board approval; anything under Jon approves

New Executive Order

- Read through and familiarize yourself with the advisory board and the governor's expectation of the board
- All members are appointed by the governor
- Additional members have applied → expect governor to review next Tuesday (Rick Bouillon, Pamela Atkinson, Bhim Sapkota, Brian Redd, Dr. Martin Bates)
 - o Will receive word from governor's office upon approval
- Several open seats still → may fill (can have up to 20 people); social services position and other positions

Role of the Board

- RSO created in 2008 and placed in DWS by Gov. Huntsman
- Role of the advisory board is to advise RSO to problem solve gaps, service issues, etc.
- Raise awareness and be champions of refugees and RSO
- 60,000 refugees in Salt Lake County and number will continue to grow
- When successful integration occurs, refugees feel part of the community

Subcommittee Structure

- Current committees are:
 - o Youth
 - o Employment
 - o Housing
 - o Health / mental health
 - o Women
- Members of committee serving as chairs and RSO staff assigned to each committee as well
- Asha – thoughts moving forward
 - o Propose renaming subcommittees as “workgroups” and work more closely with RSO staff

- Part of what they are already doing is the work of RSO; have workgroups focus on more grassroots efforts that encompass what RSO does
- Some groups are more engaged than others
- Focus the work better, develop better data systems that can be imbedded in daily work more closely
- As issues arise that need the support of AB, will be brought to attention & focus
- Will continue to report updates here
- Questions?
 - Liz: What are some specific examples:
 - Refugee community building money with a group, some outside folks incl. Patrick into discussion
 - Work that is part of community capacity building committee but needed a lot of staff to engage and outside input on what to do with money & organize to better benefit more communities
 - Started working on it and will move forward; if we wait for the AB to form a group and come back to report → will slow down the reaction process to deal with issues of crisis
 - Housing subcommittee is in a different place already
 - Access to more staff support to continue current work
 - Looking at how to change the RCBO grants to benefit more communities → no changes yet
 - Advisory board would guide this and look at current results; are we getting what we want out of this? Asha to bring report to advisory board to meet objective of the money
 - Engage refugee leaders in the discussion
 - Looking at the outputs (RSO); advisory board looking at broader issues rather than daily issues
 - Moving forward with larger picture
 - More support from RSO staff would be great and welcome

RSO Restructuring – Asha & Gerald

- Major shifts in org chart are the 4 managers assigned to specific areas; different in pushing work forward
 - Employment is critical → manager, Mario, who oversees employment counselors, job developer, workforce development specialist
 - Refugee Education & Training Center → manager, Sahil
 - Contracts & Budget → manager, Mollie
 - Want to make sure that we are pulling all of the data together correctly and in a format that makes sense
 - Community → manager, Lam
 - Community capacity building work and LCT team
- Bring all refugee staff in DWS closer together to better communicate

- Questions?
 - What will Jackie & Michael be doing?
 - Michael
 - Refugee coding project – develop some other projects similar to support the Center; more creative program that moves the Center forward
 - Oversee RSO VISTA members
 - Support volunteer work with Salt Lake City → support volunteer work rather than bringing volunteers through the state, not the most critical work
 - Jackie
 - Supporting Center and initiatives that will be launched
 - World Refugee Day
 - Center events organization – job fairs, etc.
 - Any dotted lines up to Asha?
 - No – Asha is the lead
 - Communicate RSO changes to refugee leaders & community partners
 - Feeling in the refugee community re: changes; that DWS and the Center are not working as closely as they need to with refugee community
 - Have sent out emails notifying refugees and other about changes; Asha has attended several meetings to talk to refugee community about changes (working through refugee community groups); RSO staff tasked with telling refugee community members at all meetings they attend
 - Need to invite refugee leaders to a meeting to explain; Asha has done that and will continue to do so
 - Asha did meet with the refugee women's group
 - RSO does not have an ongoing structure to meet regularly with refugee leaders – in process of formulating quarterly meetings
 - Find a balance between committee reports and role of the Advisory Board → quarterly committee reports, etc. → important that Advisory Board feels connected to refugee community at large
 - If refugee leaders feel that communication is not adequate, then we need to fix it to discuss the changes in RSO
 - Should DWS program changes be brought to the Advisory Board?
 - Not all changes
 - If there are bigger issues, then it should come to the Advisory Board
 - What is the impact on the refugee community with unilateral program decisions
 - More awareness of program changes to influence/educate the conversation in the community
 - Working on getting broader input
 - Define another layer of communication (cross agency, cross program)
 - Gerald's role as State Refugee Coordinator and how it interacts with RSO?

- Every refugee coordinator in USA have bosses, none are head of state government → GB's supervisor is Asha
- Participates in SCORR calls and reports to Asha to give Jon information
- To increase the number of arrivals, before you ask supervisor; what level of decision making do you have now versus before?
 - Circumstances that state coordinators have to address is different now than before; used to be a steady influx
 - But taking up 50 more per agency, talk to Jon; same thing now, but talk to Asha first and then Jon
- What about ORR money for programs?
 - Who makes the decisions now? Gerald will give Asha his opinion before going to EDO and they will address it together
- Steve: Useful to define the role of the Advisory Board
- RSO has the capacity to fundraise; the Advisory Board has not taken an interest in the past to fundraise
 - Flesh out the role of the Advisory Board under the new EO; do they want to fundraise, etc.
 - Strategic planning workgroup → how to shift the role of the Advisory Board, etc.
- What is the fate of the Utah Refugee Coalition – Utah Refugee Center....what is the role of the Advisory Board with that org?
 - Do not know the fate of URC; there has been a change in executive director
 - Advisory Board does not have oversight over URC. It is a private non-profit entity

Key Focus Areas – Asha

- Activity Report
 - Not an exhaustive list
 - Key activities with RSO
 - Case Management
 - Orgs, refugee service providers, more coordinated collaborative approach
 - Working on implementing ETO data collection system and bring info back to Advisory Board
 - English
 - How to coordinate ESL programs more effectively
 - Working with SLCC to develop an assessment tool
 - Meeting in early June to begin the discussion
 - Employment
 - Working with SLCC – warehousing training (want to offer more)
 - Grant funded until end of June – sustainable program that can easily move forward
- Ways to support trainings (see handout)

- Need to do a lot of work initially with refugee communities to inform them about the types of employment available and what jobs it supports
 - Support for folks in the programs
 - Work with employers to make sure they are ready to take on refugee customers
- Occupational Skills Training target areas
 - Hoping to have full complement of training available
 - Pairing training with worksite English training
- Strengthening Families Grant (handout)
 - RSO has applied for the grant to help access money to get training up and running with SLCC
 - Grant is limited to H1B jobs
- Youth
 - Identified a focus of college readiness & academic support that are critical for youth to do well

Resettlement Changes

- Continuing discussions with LDS, IRC, CCS & AAU in resettling refugees outside the SL valley
- How to most effectively do this work without committing ourselves to providing services without the resources to support them

Ogden Update - Aden

- First case arrived last night
- Family of 12 from Congo, got a 5 bedroom house in Ogden
- LDS ward in Ogden took on the family
- Goal is to have 50 people by end of year
- Family of 8 arriving tonight
- Already at 20 people
- \$1500/month rent
- Volunteer purchased a condo in Ogden to house a refugee family
- Lots of community stakeholder meetings
- By June, should have 30 people in Ogden

Data Sheets

- Developing a dashboard (template) to identify ways that we can bring data to you
- Refugee arrivals
- Where DWS contracts are, where we are putting money
- Ways to restructure some of the data:
 - Employment
 - Coordination
 - Integration
- Work that the CRS team has done (FY15 v FY16)

- Shifted from doing case management for 5 families to working more deeply in the community → shows in data shift

Questions:

Strengthening families grant

- How many families would it fund?
 - Would fund training rather than individuals

Refugee Youth Coding Project (see clip at <http://kutv.com/news/local/refugees-prepare-for-future-with-degrees-in-computer-coding>)

Question:

- Presentation at the capitol, Tino has some suggestions to expand the program to other places
 - Add a competition component
 - Talked to Univ. of Utah Community Affairs group to expand to REFUGE program and the schools that the youth are attending

Refugee Education & Training Center – Sahil (see handout)

- Data from Jan – April, broken out by specific areas
- Community run events are based on discussions with community members, i.e. computer classes; sewing – over 60 adults that attend
- Life skills training → working on a keyboarding class to address English issues
- Working on driver's education course
- Coding: 40 kids from 6 countries; average of 38 kids each week
 - Graduation will be this Saturday
- Over 2,700 unique people have come to the Center for 8,000 visits

Questions:

- What is the timeline for expanding the Center?
 - SLCC is moving out 18 months from January, give or take → facility goes under construction this summer; should be an 18 month build; will start classes in Fall 2018
 - Phase 2 will put Head Start in Bldg. A and a kitchen; haven't raised enough funds for the kitchen yet
 - Hoping to complete Head Start construction by Sept 1
- Will the coding project be continued?
 - Yes
- Expansion of youth training would be great → RSO has plans to expand youth training, particularly coding
 - 100% completion rate for the coding project
 - 2 scholarships from V-School as well
 - Providing transportation & food gets the youth to the training/programs
- Communicate with refugee leaders about the expansion; leaders need to know how successful the program was

Ze:

- Julie McAdams wants to help refugees put a float into the Pioneer Days parade; Zions bank is helping to pay for it
 - o 35 participants total for the float
 - o Home to refugees since 1847

Next meeting – August 25, 2016 @ Refugee Education & Training Center, Rm. 133

Motion to adjourn – Nick Street

Adjourned